

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 24, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 75-110 are currently pending in the application, with claims 75, 85, 93, and 101 being independent claims. The Office Action indicates that claims 75-100 are allowed and claims 101-110 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as omitting essential structural elements. Although the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, independent claim 101 is amended to recite "a joining springbar extending through the joining channel and into apertures of the second link to join the first link to the second link" to demonstrate the manner in which the links may be joined. The Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that independent claim 101 is allowable and that claims 102-110 are allowable for at least the same reason.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in a condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be allowed.

This Amendment is being timely filed by facsimile transmission on April 10, 2006. Should fees be deemed necessary for consideration of this Amendment, such fees are hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account number 19-0733 for payment. If anything further is desirable to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned representative at (503) 425-6800.

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Dated: April 10, 2006

Respectfully Submitted,

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